LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~assimilating and storing for later analysis pharmacy data relating~~ determining consumption of medication dispensed pursuant to a prescription for medication at one or more pharmacies, the method comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a plurality of medication dispensation transaction records from ~~at least one pharmacy~~ the one or more pharmacies;

b) correlating the obtained medication dispensation transaction records to the prescription;

c) extracting medication dispensing data and medication usage data from the correlated medication dispensation transaction records, wherein the medication usage data includes an amount of medication in the prescription that has been returned or not consumed; [[and]]

d) consolidating medication dispensing data and medication usage data related to the same prescription dispensed at all of the one or more pharmacies;

[[d)]]e) computing actual consumption data from the medication dispensing data and the medication usage data, the actual consumption data comprising:

i) at least one of a plurality of sources for the medications dispensed in the prescription, wherein the plurality of sources include a plurality of pharmaceutical [[added]] companies, and

ii) at least a portion of the actual consumption of the medication that is respectively attributable to the at least one of the plurality of sources; and

[[e)]]f) storing in a data repository at least one of the transaction records, medication dispensing data, medication usage data and actual consumption data.

2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of storing at least one of the transaction records, medication dispensing data, medication usage data and actual consumption data in a data warehouse of the data repository.

3. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of communicating the transaction records to a data repository for storage.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the transaction records are communicated via an electronic communications network.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of incorporating security measures to prevent unauthorized access to the transaction records, medication dispensing data, medication usage data and actual consumption data.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the transaction records are encrypted by the ~~pharmacy~~ one or more pharmacies prior to communicating the transaction records to the data repository, and wherein the data repository decrypts the transaction records after receiving the transaction records.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

a) identifying at least one market for at least one selected medication, for the at least one selected source of the plurality of sources;

b) computing actual consumption data for the selected medication;

c) periodically communicating the actual consumption data to the selected source; and

d) computing an incentive to be received from the selected source, the value of which correlates to a change in market share for the selected medication in favor of the selected source, as shown by the actual consumption data.

8. (previously presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the actual consumption data is communicated to the source via an electronic communications network.

9. (currently amended) A method of ~~assimilating and using pharmacy data relating~~ determining consumption of medication dispensed pursuant to a prescription for medication at one or more pharmacies, the method comprising the steps of:

a) obtaining a plurality of medication dispensation transaction records from ~~at least one pharmacy~~ the one or more pharmacies;

b) correlating the obtained medication dispensation transaction records to the prescription;

c) extracting medication dispensing data and medication usage data from the correlated medication dispensation transaction records, wherein the medication usage data includes an amount of medication in the prescription that has been returned or not consumed.;

d) consolidating medication dispensing data and medication usage data related to the same prescription dispensed at all of the one or more pharmacies;

[[d)]]e) identifying at least one pattern in the medication dispensing data and medication usage data;

[[e)]]f) utilizing the pattern to formulate at least one logical rule for calculating medication actual consumption data;

[[f)]]g) testing the at least one logical rule for accuracy on at least one subsequent transaction record; and

[[g)]]h) using the at least one logical rule to calculate medication actual consumption data comprising:

i) at least one of a plurality of sources for the medications dispensed, wherein the plurality of sources include a plurality of pharmaceutical companies; and

ii) at least a portion of the actual consumption of the medication that is respectively attributable to at least one of the plurality of sources.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of

a) compiling the transaction records;

b) communicating the transaction records to a data repository; and

c) storing the transaction records in a data warehouse of the data repository.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

a) receiving a query for actual consumption data from a requestor;

b) generating a report responsive to the query; and

c) communicating the report to the requestor.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the transaction records are communicated via an electronic communications network.

13. (previously presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the electronic communications network is an intranet.

14. (previously presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the query and the report are communicated via an electronic communications network.

15. (previously presented) A method according to claim 14, wherein the report is encrypted by the data repository before communicating it to the requestor, and wherein the requestor decrypts the report after receiving it.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the steps of:

a) identifying at least one market for at least one selected medication, for at least one selected source of the plurality of sources;

b) periodically calculating actual consumption data for the selected medication;

c) periodically communicating actual consumption data to the selected source; and

d) computing an incentive to be received from the selected source, the value of which correlates to a change in market share for the selected medication in favor of the selected source, as shown by the calculated actual consumption data.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of identifying at least one pattern in the medication dispensing data and medication usage data further includes identifying exceptions to the pattern.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the actual consumption data is communicated to the source via an electronic communications network.

19. (original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of adding security measures to prevent unauthorized access to the transaction records.

20. (original) A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of adding security measures to prevent unauthorized access to the query and report.